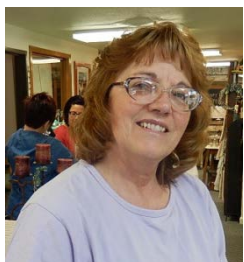




## Calling all “History Detectives!”

*What Brighton historic building or place would you just hate to lose and why?*



**Barb Johnes** would hate to lose the **Bromley-Koizuma-Hishinuma Farm** located at 1594 E. Bromley Lane, Brighton, Colorado. Johnes lives in Brighton and loves passing by the image of the main Victorian house and surrounding buildings set against the rural landscape of the farm. She also believes the historic significance of this property would be a great loss to the Brighton community if ever demolished.

Fortunately, plans are in place for not only the preservation—but *restoration and re-use*—of this historic place. In late 2006, the City of Brighton recognized the importance of this historic place to its citizens and purchased the 9.6 acres property, containing seven century-old farm structures (a main house, migrant worker house, wash house, barn, silo, metal granary, cistern and milk trough) and six acres of dormant farmland. The Bromley-Koizuma-Hishinuma Farm was later added to the National Historic Register in 2007.

In addition to honorific recognition, a listing in the National Register gives eligibility for certain tax provisions and qualification for Federal grants for historic preservation, when funds are available. (Visit <http://www.nps.gov/nr/>). To date, the Colorado State Historical Fund has awarded \$671,500 toward the Bromley-Koizuma-Hishinuma Farm’s exterior and interior rehabilitation, roof replacement, and foundation stabilization.



Restoration of the interior of the main house and landscaping (with public infrastructures such as access, parking, and public facilities) are the next long-term steps. The Master Plan also calls for turning the land into an agriculture-centric recreation space as a living- farm and special events destination site. This includes contracting with a farmer to run the land and raise crops. Special events (including public classes) will also be held at the site. (See [City of Brighton Master Plans and Maps](#)).

This historic place will be saved for future generations to see, first-hand, a farm architecture representing the full range of buildings and structures necessary for the operation of a 20th century Colorado cattle ranch and farm, as well as a rare surviving example of transient labor housing. Visitors will also be able to experience Brighton’s early local history as they learn

about Emmet A. Bromley, who built the main house in 1899 and is referred to by many as the “Father of Adams County” after sponsoring a Colorado Senate bill to divide Arapahoe County.

The farm site’s legacy will also live on with the story of the Mitsuye Koizuma and Yachi Hishinuma families, who in 1946 moved into both the main house and migrant worker house to operate the farm together. Both Koizuma and Hishinuma had just previously lived and farmed in Ft. Lupton during the timeframe of WWII Japanese internment camps. With their heritage of first-generation Japanese ancestry, they represent a small population that experienced Colorado’s unique and proud stance to allow all residents— regardless of ancestry— the ability to live freely and own land. They both went on to live a model story of Brighton’s agricultural heritage sharing significant contributions of a variety of crops to the area, including sugar beets, cabbage, alfalfa and corn.

The Brighton Historic Preservation Commission recovered a large number of historic Japanese newspapers from the site in 2007. They raised funds to purchase a large-document scanner and have been coordinating an archival scanning project to save and preserve these historic artifacts.



Photos taken by Robin Kring

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**What about you?** *What lost Brighton building or place do you wish you could bring back and why? What Brighton historic building or place would you just hate to lose and why?*

Send in your answers to these questions to [brightonhistorydetectives@gmail.com](mailto:brightonhistorydetectives@gmail.com) and your response may be highlighted on the City of Brighton’s Website during the month of May. Along with your answers, please include your full name, city, e-mail address, and telephone number for clarifying your questions. Only your name will printed on the Website.

**MAY IS NATIONAL PRESERVATION MONTH.** SINCE CREATED BY THE NATIONAL TRUST IN 1971, THE EVENT HAS GROWN INTO AN ANNUAL CELEBRATION OBSERVED BY CITIES AROUND THE COUNTRY WITH EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES THAT SPOTLIGHT VARIOUS PRESERVATION EFFORTS. BHPC BELIEVES THAT HISTORIC PRESERVATION IS NOT JUST ABOUT THE PAST, BUT ABOUT ALSO OUR FUTURE AS OUR CULTURAL HERITAGE ENHANCES OUR LIVES TODAY AND WILL CONTINUE TO ENRICH OUR LIVES IN THE FUTURE.